

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

**IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS**

Be it remembered, that on this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020, the Commissioners Court of Zapata County, Texas convened in **REGULAR SESSION** of said Court, at the regular meeting place thereof, in the Courthouse of Zapata, Texas, with the following members of said Court, to-wit:

**PRESENT:**

Hon. Joseph Rathmell	County Judge
Paco Mendoza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Olga M. Elizondo	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Eddie Martinez	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Norberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

**VISITORS:** Triunfo Gonzalez, Monica Alaniz, Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Trevino, Jose Solis, Daniel D. Arriaga, Erika Martinez, Delia and Fidencio Mendoza, and Laura Garza.

**WHEREUPON**, the following Orders and Proceedings were had by said Court, to-wit:

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M.  
ROLL CALL BY MARY JAYNE VILLARREAL-BONOAN, COUNTY CLERK AND  
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT  
INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Chief Meza advised the court that there will be COVID-19 testing tomorrow, November 10, children 5 and over can be tested.

Commissioner Garza asked, what if someone is infected? Judge Rathmell and Chief Meza responded: stay isolated; get tested when you can. State makes contact and recommendations.

Commissioner Mendoza asked how soon after exposure should a person test? Chief Meza responded that the recommendation is after 3 days.

Chief Meza stated that the local numbers are spiking in our community. Parties are taking place. We need to put a damper on it. He added that some students tested positive and only those that were negative were able to participate in sports.

Judge Rathmell reported on the COVID-19 testing results as follows: tests conducted 5,803, negative 5,357, released from isolation 342, positive 384, pending 62 and 7 deaths. There is a lag time on reporting by CDC. There are several local individuals who are very sick at the hospital.

Judge Rathmell added that he received good news, Chief Meza received senatorial recognition for his 48 years of service. He further commented on the election results; Zapata turned red for the first time in 100 years. A lot of locals were afraid of losing their livelihood due to talk of doing away with oil fields.

Commissioner Mendoza mentioned that we need to post notice for a Veteran's Service Officer. Judge Rathmell stated that he reached out to Manuel Uribe, former Veteran's Service officer, for assistance and is waiting for a response.

### **ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$969,237 as presented by Triunfo Gonzalez.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

### **ORDER APPROVING TREASURER'S REPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Treasurer's Report as requested by Hon. Romeo Salinas, County Treasurer.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

### **ORDER APPROVING CHECKS ISSUED**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$969,237 as requested by Hon. Romeo Salinas, County Treasurer.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

### **TAX / ASSESSOR COLLECTOR'S REPORT – not present report submitted**

Tax Assessor/Collector's office reported Hotel-Motel tax collections in the amount of \$4,268.12 for the month of October with a year-to-date total of \$98,466.45. Tax collections at a rate of 38.39% for a total base tax collected of \$2,188,694.29.

### **ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST TO APPOINT MEMBERS FOR THE ZAPATA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table request to appoint members to the Zapata County Historical Commissioner.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

### **ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF WALK-IN FREEZER FOR FOOD PANTRY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the purchase of walk-in freezer, 10' x 14' for the Food Pantry using COVID-19 funds from KaTom Restaurant Supply, Inc. GSA pricing provided for county governments for \$12,935.19 as requested by Hon. Romeo Salinas, County Treasurer.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

### **ORDER RETROACTIVELY APPROVING AGREEMENT FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF U.S. HIGHWAY 83 STATE RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR HAWK FEST HOMECOMING PARADE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to retroactively approve agreement for the temporary closure of U.S. Highway 83 State right of way on Thursday, November 5, 2020, for the Hawk Fest Homecoming Parade as requested by Nellie R. Trevino, Personnel Director.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

**ORDER APPROVING TO HIRE JUAN E. GARCIA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to hire Juan E. Garcia in 15-012-slot#3 at \$14.57 per hour as requested by Nellie R. Trevino, Personnel Director.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

**ORDER APPROVING REPAIRS FOR PRECINCT #4 GAZEBO**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the repairs for the Precinct #4 Gazebo in the amount of \$3,012.00 to be paid from the following: 010-77750-409 Storm Damages, \$2,233.74 and 10-004-395 Parks Precinct #4 \$778.26 as requested by Nellie R. Trevino, Personnel Director.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

**ORDER APPROVING CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND SPENDING PLAN**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Coronavirus Relief Fund Spending Plan as requested by Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting LLC.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

**ORDER APPROVING USE OF ZAPATA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS OPEN PAVILION SITE TO HOST 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL LOS FIERROS MOTORCYCLE CLUB TOY DRIVE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the use of the Zapata County fairgrounds open pavilion site to host the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Los Fierros Motorcycle Club Toy Drive. Event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, December 19, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., using a drive-thru format, as requested by Arnold Garcia, Zapata resident.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

**ORDER APPROVING TO EXTEND LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY AND WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS FOR SOUTH TEXAS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to extend lease agreement between Zapata County and Workforce Solutions for South Texas as requested by Rogelio Trevino, Executive Director, South Texas Workforce Solutions.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

**ORDER APPROVING CONSENT ITEMS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the installation of a streetlights at the following addresses:

- a. 1852 Paloma Drive (Lots 161 and 161A Lago Halcon Area B, Section 1)
- as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Pct. 1.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the installation of a streetlight at the following address:

a. 130 Armadillo Road  
as requested by Hon. Olga M. Elizondo, Commissioner Pct. 2.

a. Corner of FM3074 and Seagull Street  
as requested by Hon. Eddie Martinez, Commissioner Pct. 3.

a. 1413 Ramireño  
as requested by Hon. Norberto Garza, Commissioner Pct. 4.

The above motions, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA,  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GARZA,  
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GARZA,  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA,  
TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM  
DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ORDER TO DENY REQUEST FOR PLACEMENT OF COMMUNICATION TOWER  
ON COUNTY OWNED LAND**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to deny request for placement of communication tower on county owned land as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM DISCUSSED IN  
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

25. Update as to the pending litigation on the Border Wall in San Ygnacio as requested by Hon. Said Figueroa, County Attorney.

*Closed Session/Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071(A) (B) Consultation with Attorney.*

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM DISCUSSED IN  
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

26. Personnel matters on claim submitted to the Texas Association of Counties as requested by Nellie R. Trevino, Personnel Director.

*Closed Session/Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.074 (B) Personnel Matters.*

**ORDER APPROVING UPDATE ON NEW FFCRA GUIDELINES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to update new FFCRA guidelines and take possible action regarding said guidelines as requested by Nellie R. Trevino, Personnel Director.

*Closed Session/Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.074 (B) Personnel Matters.*

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, and being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

There being no further business for disposition at this term, the Court adjourned.

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JOSEPH RATHMELL, COUNTY JUDGE  
OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTEST:

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MARY JAYNE VILLARREAL-BONOAN,  
COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO  
CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS